

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1730

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 BRASILIA 4072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EGEN, SHUM, OAS, XL, XM, BR

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S

DISCUSSIONS IN BRAZIL

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 3891 (NOTAL) (B) BRASILIA 3935 (NOTAL)

(C) BRASILIA 3989 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S DISCUSSIONS IN
BRASILIA MAY 13 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, SENIOR
FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS WERE
OPEN, EASY AND CORDIAL AND UNDERScoreD DESIRE OF CARTER
ADMINISTRATION TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONSULTATIVE DIALOG WITH
BRAZIL. TALKS TOUCHED IN GENERAL TERMS ON SUCH MATTERS AS
BRAZIL-US CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, CUBA, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE
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PROBLEMS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, NUCLEAR ENERGY AND
NON-PROLIFERATION, THE CIEC AND THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT, THE
CARIBBEAN, THE ANDES, ARGENTINA, AND BRAZIL'S RELATIONS WITH
AFRICA. BRAZILIANS WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH TODMAN'S
BREADTH, SKILL, CANDOR AND WARMTH AS AN INTERLOCUTOR, QUALITIES
WHICH THEY BELIEVE WILL ENHANCE FUTURE BILATERAL DIALOG.
END SUMMARY.

2. DURING ONE-DAY WORKING PROGRAM IN BRASILIA MAY 13, ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS AND SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICERS, CONFERRED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, WITH CHIEFS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPARTMENTS OF INTER-AMERICAN ORGANIZATION (DUARTE), ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (CABRAL DE MELLO), AMERICAN AFFAIRS (ARAUJO), AND FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SECRETARY-GENERAL GUERREIRO. TODMAN ALSO HAD BRIEF CONVERSATIONS WITH SENATOR MAGALHAES PINTO AND DEPUTY FLAVIO MARCILIO, CHAIRMEN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSIONS OF THE BRAZILIAN SENATE AND CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES RESPECTIVELY.

3. EARLY IN ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR CONVERSATION WITH SILVEIRA, TODMAN ASSURED FOREIGN MINISTER HE WOULD ENJOY DEALING WITH SECRETARY VANCE. SILVEIRA REPLIED THAT SECRETARY IS RESPECTED IN BRAZIL FOR HIS BALANCED VIEWS AND BELIEVED THAT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE MOVED ON THE ROAD TO BETTER, MORE MATURE RELATIONS AND HE WAS OPTIMISTIC. HE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT HE COULD SEE THE INFLUENCE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN THE DRAFTING OF THE PRESIDENT'S OAS SPEECH, WHICH HAD A "NEW OPTIC." TODMAN STRESSED HE TOO WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROGRESS IN THE RELATIONSHIP AND WAS CONFIDENT THAT THAT WAS VERY MUCH THE DESIRE OF OUR PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY VANCE. (DISCUSSIONS OF THE FUTURE OF THE MOU REPORTED SEPARATELY.)

4. THE CARIBBEAN AND SOUTH AMERICA--ASKED BY
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TODMAN HOW HE SAW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN, SILVEIRA COMMENTED THAT BRAZIL IS CLOSER CULTURALLY AND RACIALLY TO THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES THAN ARE MOST OF THE SPANISH SPEAKING STATES. NOTING THAT BRAZIL NOW HAS AN EMBASSY IN JAMAICA, SILVEIRA SAID THAT THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT WAS NOT AS LEFTIST AS IS WIDELY THOUGHT. HE DESCRIBED BRAZIL'S RELATIONS WITH GUYANA AS GOOD, ADDING THAT THEY ARE BEING FAIR IN THEIR DEALINGS. SILVEIRA ADMITTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN TROUBLES, BUT RELATIONS WERE CLOSE SINCE THE VISIT (IN JULY 1976) OF FOREIGN MINISTER FRED WILLS, WHO HAD ASSURED HIM GUYANA WOULD DO NOTHING OR PERMIT NOTHING THAT WOULD HARM RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL. HE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE GUYANESE CABINET HAD MADE A DECISION IN FAVOR OF DISCUSSIONS WITH BRAZIL OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ADHERING TO A REGIONAL "AMAZON PACT."

5. TURNING TO BRAZIL'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, SILVEIRA STRESSED THAT BRAZIL HAS NO BORDER PROBLEMS, UNLIKE MANY LATIN AMERICAN STATES. BRAZIL HAD STEADILY

DEVELOPED ITS COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS
AND WAS NOW THE PRINCIPAL TRADING PARTNER OF A NUMBER
OF THEM AND WOULD SOON ASSUME THAT POSITION WITH OTHERS.

6. CUBA--COMMENTING ON TODMAN'S DISCUSSION EARLIER
IN DAY OF CUBA, ULVEIRA SAID PROBLEM OF CUBA IS
DIFFERENT FOR BRAZIL. CUBA'S POTENTIAL FOR INTERVENTION
WAS NOT A PROBLEM FOR BRAZIL. BRAZIL ALREADY
ALLOWS THE PRESENCE OF CHINESE, SOVIET AND EASTERN
EUROPEAN MISSIONS HERE WITH NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS. BRAZIL
WORKS WITH THE CUBANS ON TECHNICAL MATTERS SUCH AS
SUGAR, AND IN SOME INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. BUT
IN ITS CUBA POLICY, SILVEIRA CONTINUED, BRAZIL HAS
TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FEARS OF NEARBY COUNTRIES THAT
ARE CONCERNED AND OFFENDED BY CASTRO, SUCH AS PARAGUAY,
URUGUAY AND BOLIVIA. SILVEIRA RECALLED THAT HE HAD
WARNED KISSINGER FREQUENTLY AGAINST HAVING AN EXCESSIVELY
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CASTRO-CENTERED FOREIGN POLICY. HE DOUBTED RELATIONS
WITH CUBA WOULD COME SOON, BUT DID NOT SEE IT AS A SERIOUS
PROBLEM FOR BRAZIL. HE BELIEVED THE POSITION OF CASTRO
IN THE HEMISPHERE HAD DETERIORATED AND IF THERE WERE
A VOTE TODAY IN THE OAS ON SANCTIONS, CASTRO WOULD LOSE
BECAUSE OF THE BAD IMPRESSION CREATED BY HIS ADVENTURE
IN AFRICA.

7. ANDEAN PROBLEMS--TODMAN ASKED SILVEIRA FOR HIS VIEWS
ON THE SITUATION ON THE WEST COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA.

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SILVEIRA BELIEVED THAT THE ECUADOR-PERU SITUATION WAS ONLY A VOCAL ISSUE SINCE THE MATTER WAS NOW SETTLED AND THERE WAS NO DANGER OF ARMED CONFLICT. REGARDING THE CHILE-PERU TENSIONS AND BOLIVIAN DEMANDS, SILVEIRA SAID PERU HAS A REVANCHIST SPIRIT. BOLIVIA AT HEART SIDES WITH PERU, THOUGH RIGHT NOW THEY ARE MANEUVERING BETTER WITH CHILE. ON BOLIVIA'S ACCESS TO THE SEA, SILVEIRA SAID BRAZIL OPPOSES CHANGING BORDERS BUT IN THIS CASE IT DOES NOT WANT TO INTERFERE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAW A PROBLEM IN BOLIVIA'S EXCESSIVE AMBITIONS FOR TERRITORY SOUTH OF ARICA. HE BLIEVED THE MATTER COULD BE BETTER SETTLED BY GIVING THE BOLIVIANS PRIVILEGES RATHER THAN TERRITORY.

8. AFRICA--SILVEIRA DWELT AT LENGTH ON BRAZIL'S AFRICA POLICY, CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTING THAT BRAZIL HAD FOUND IT EASIER TO DEAL WITH THE AFRICANS THAN WITH ITS FELLOW LATIN AMERICAN, SINCE BRAZIL ITSELF HAS A DIVIDED SOUL--AFRICAN AND LATIN. BRAZIL TRIES TO UNDERSTAND AFRICAN MOTIVATIONS AND RECOGNIZES THE DIFFERENCES AMONG AFRICANS AS WELL AS THEIR BASIC UNITY. BRAZIL IS LEARNING FROM ITS AFRICAN RELATIONS AND IS GAINING IN PERSPECTIVE IN LOOKING AT THE RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.

9. SILVEIRA REVIEWED THE STEPS THAT LED UP TO THE BRAZILIAN DECISION TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA IN 1975. HE RECALLED THAT BRAZIL ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, FOLLOWING HIS CONTACT WITH MOZAMBIQUEAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO IN NEW YORK IN 1975, THOUGH THERE WAS NO CONNECTION WITH THE ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS. BRAZIL HE ADDED IS DEVELOPING VERY POSITIVE RELATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES, CAPE VERDE, GUINEA-BISSAU AND MOZAMBIQUE.

10. DISCUSSING DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, THE ASSISTANT

SECRETARY NOTED THAT EARTH-SENSING SATELLITES WILL BENEFIT THOSE COUNTRIES WHO NEED HELP IN FINDING NATURAL RESOURCES, ADDING THAT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MUST BE APPLIED TO BASIC NEEDS, SUCH AS MAPPING WATER DEPOSITS IN THE SUBSOIL. SILVEIRA EXPRESSED CONCERN IN THE GROWING DIFFERENCE IN TECHNOLOGICAL ABILITIES BETWEEN COUNTRIES, FEELING THAT THE GAP IS GROWING. HE SAW IT AS THE DUTY OF THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES TO MAKE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE. HE OUTLINED SOME OF BRAZIL'S EFFORTS TO GIVE LIMITED TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY TO POOR AFRICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN STATES, SHARING ITS EXPERIENCE IN SUCH FIELDS AS TRAINING OF DIPLOMATS AND TROPICAL DISEASE RESEARCH.

11. ARGENTINA--IN THIRTY MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY, AMBASSADOR ARAUJO, CHIEF OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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AMERICAS DEPARTMENT, DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS HISTORICAL FACTORS IN CURRENT ARGENTINE CRISIS, MENTIONING THE OVERWHELMING POSITION OF THE CAPITAL CITY IN NATIONAL LIFE AND THE LASTING APPEAL OF PERONISM. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OUTLINED SOME OF HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS IN CARACAS MAY 11 WITH VIDELA, WHO HAD EXPLAINED TO HIM ARGENTINA'S POLITICAL DISINTEGRATION AND THE LACK OF ANY CONSENSUS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. VIDELA HAD STRESSED THE DIFFICULTY CAUSED BY THE GROUPS WHO WERE PREPARED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS CONFUSED SITUATION. TODMAN RECALLED THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF VIDELA'S QUANDARY BUT HAD MADE APPEAL TO VIDELA THAT HE AVOID DEALING WITH THOSE EXTREMIST GROUPS WITH THE SAME METHODS THEY USED, THAT HE AVOID THE SAME EXCESSES, SINCE THE GOVERNMENT HAS CLEAR OBLIGATION TO RESPECT LEGITIMATE NORMS. ARAUJO NOTED THAT ALL GROUPS IN CONFLICT IN ARGENTINA FROM RIGHT TO LEFT ARE PERONISTS-- EVEN THE TERRORISTS OF THE RIGHTTIST AAA.

12. THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM--IN ONE-HOUR CONVERSATION WITH TODMAN, CHIEF OF INTER-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT CARLOS DUARTE AND OAS DIVISION CHIEF PAULO LIMA SAID BRAZIL CONTINUES TO SUPPORT ON MOST POINTS US REFORM OBJECTIVES FOR OAS THOUGH THEY REITERATED BRAZIL COULD NOT SUPPORT US PROPOSAL FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FOR MINI-STATES. THEY INQUIRED WHETHER THE US, UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, WILL CONTINUE STRONG OPPOSITION EXPRESSED ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO TO REFORM PROPOSALS FAVORED BY MAJORITY, SUCH AS COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY, WHICH BRAZIL ITSELF FELT WAS CONFRONTATIONAL. DUARTE REITERATED THAT BRAZIL IS SYMPATHETIC TO US REFORM APPROACH AND, THOUGH IT COULD

NOT TAKE THE LEAD IN OPPOSING LATIN-BACKED REFORM PROPOSALS,
IT WOULD SUPPORT THE US IF IT TOOK THE LEAD. TODMAN
STATED THE US POSITION ON THE OAS REFORM QUESTION
WAS BEING REVIEWED, SINCE THE US HAD TO DECIDE HOW
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HARD TO PRESS, WHETHER TO YIELD TO LATIN AMERICAN
PROPOSALS OR TO PUSH AHEAD, ALONE IF NECESSARY, IN
OPPOSING REFORMS. DUARTE SAID BRAZIL SHARES US CONCERN
OVER INEFFICIENCY, HIGH COST, LASSITUDE, AND NEPOTISM
IN OAS SECRETARIAT AND IN ITS FUNCTIONING. BRAZIL IN
GENERAL OPPOSES, AT PERSONAL DIRECTION OF PRESIDENT
GEISEL, FURTHER INCREASES IN THE BUDGETS OF INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS. DISCUSSING THE US INTENTION TO REDUCE ITS
ASSESSMENT FROM 66 PERCENT TO 49 PERCENT OF THE OAS
BUDGET, DUARTE EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH THE US OBJECTIVES,
THOUGH HE NOTED THAT BRAZIL, MEXICO AND ARGENTINA, AS
THE LARGER CONTRIBUTORS AFTER THE US, WOULD HAVE TO
PICK UP MOST OF THE 17 PERCENT THAT THE US RELINQUISHED.

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THE BRAZILIAN SIDE WAS RELIEVED BY TODMAN'S STATEMENT THAT THE USG WAS CONTINGENTLY A STEP-BY-STEP REDUCTION OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS AND NOT A ONE-TIME ACTION. REFERRING TO THE HIGH COSTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES OF HOLDING A GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN GRANADA, DUARTE EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSITION THAT COUNTRIES WISHING TO HOST THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY ANY ADDED COSTS ENTAILED.

13. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAL FOR CLOSER CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE US AND OTHER HEMISPHERIC STATES IN PREPARATION FOR INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL MEETINGS. HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE STATES TO GO INTO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS WITH A COORDINATED POSITION OR, WHERE THIS WAS NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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POSSIBLE, AT LEAST GO IN AWARE OF THEIR DIVERGENCIES.

14. TURNING TO THE OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, WHICH TODMAN URGED BE STRENGTHENED, DUARTE AND LIMA STRESSED THAT BRAZIL HAD ALWAYS COOPERATED WITH THE COMMISSION AND HAD PROMPTLY AND FULLY ANSWERED ALL INQUIRIES. THEY CAUTIONED AGAINST A CONDEMNATORY OR JUDGMENTAL ROLE FOR THE COMMISSION, URGING THAT IT TAKE A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH AND TRY TO TEACH HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES TO MEMBER STATES AND NOT TO PUNISH THEM.

TODMAN STATED THAT THE USG WISHED TO STRESS THE POSITIVE AND NOT THE NEGATIVE IN ITS ADDRESS TO HR QUESTIONS; DUARTE AND LIMA RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE STATEMENT. THE BRAZILIANS QUESTIONED THE PROPRIETY OF THE US DECISION TO MAKE A UNILATERAL GRANT OF FUNDS IN 1976 TO THE COMMISSION SINCE THIS APPROACH, IF GENERALLY FOLLOWED, COULD UNDERCUT THE COLLECTIVE DETERMINATION OF OAS PRIORITIES INHERENT IN THE BUDGET PROCESS. LIMA ASKED WHETHER US REALLY INTENDED TO RATIFY THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AS INDICATED BY PRESIDENT CARTER, QUESTIONING HOW THE US COULD BE SO OPPOSED TO THE SUPRANATIONAL JUDICIAL PROCESS ENTAILED IN THE REFORM PROPOSALS ON COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY, YET COULD ACCEPT SUPRANATIONAL JURISDICTION IN THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

15. TODMAN STATED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS IS A CONCEPT THAT ALL MEMBER STATES HAVE ACCEPTED. ALL COUNTRIES HAVE

SUBSCRIBED TO THE UN CHARTER AND ALL OF THEM HAVE
HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS IN THEIR CONSTITUTIONS.
HUMAN RIGHTS ARE ALSO IMPLICIT IN THE SHARED MORAL VALUES
ON WHICH THE HEMISPHERIC SYSTEM RESTS. TODMAN EXPLAINED
THAT THE US HAD DECIDED TO GIVE THE COMMISSION SUCH
A SPECIAL GRANT BECAUSE IT WAS SO SERIOUSLY UNDERFUNDED
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THAT IT COULD NOT ADEQUATELY PERFORM ITS MISSION.
WHILE AFFIRMING THE US SUPPORT FOR THE AMERICAN CONVENTION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS, HE NOTED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT
THE US MIGHT HAVE TO RATIFY WITH RESERVATIONS, THOUGH
THIS QUESTION WOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. TODMAN HOPED THAT
ALL MEMBER STATES WOULD BEGIN TO ALLOW IAHC TO VISIT
THEIR COUNTRIES WITHOUT PERMISSION. THIS WAS NOT
AN EFFORT TO OVERRIDE THEIR SOVEREIGNTY, RATHER TO DEVELOP
THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT THE COMMISSION TO OPERATE
FREELY.

16. ECONOMIC AND NUCLEAR QUESTIONS--DISCUSSING CIEC AT
THE OUTSET OF HIS ONE-HOUR CONVERSATION WITH TODMAN, CHIEF
OF THE ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT CABRAL DE MELLO SAID THAT
THE LANGUAGE PUT FORWARD BY THE G-8 IN PARIS WAS
CAUTIOUS AND DC'S NEEDED TO MOVE FROM GENERAL ANNOUNCE-
MENTS TO SPECIFICS. TODMAN CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT
THAT AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT THE 7 HAD EXPLICITLY
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE WELFARE AND THE PROGRESS OF THE
DC'S WAS DEPENDENT ON THAT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
TRANSLATING THIS CLEAR CONCEPT INTO PRACTICE WOULD
FOLLOW. THE US HOPED THE RESULTS OF THE ECONOMIC
SUMMIT WOULD CREATE A FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE
CIEC MINISTERIAL. TODMAN REPORTED HE HAD FOUND PRESIDENT
PEREZ IN CARACAS OPTIMISTIC THAT HE COULD WORK OUT A
COMPROMISE WITHIN OPEC FOR A LONG-TERM FORMULA FOR PRICE
STABILITY. CABRAL DE MELLO WAS PESSIMISTIC THAT CIEC
COULD PRODUCE REAL RESULTS IN THE ENERGY AREA, NOTING
THAT OPEC, AS AN EFFECTIVE CARTEL, COULD IMPOSE "INDEXING"
UNILATERALLY AS PART OF A FORMULA FOR LONG-TERM STABLE PRICES.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN REITERATED THAT INDEXING IN ANY FORM
WOULD GIVE THE US DIFFICULTY.

17. OUTLINING BRAZIL'S TRADE POSITION AND ITS VULNERABILITIES,
CABRAL DE MELLO SAID BRAZIL REMAINS OPPOSED TO REGIONAL
PREFERENCES AND DISAGREED WITH COLOMBIA'S LONG-STANDING INTEREST
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ALONG THIS LINE, BUT ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SPECIAL AND
DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENTS FOR LDC'S IN THE MTN.

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THE GOB CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THAT THIS CONCEPT
NOW BE IMPLEMENTED IN ALL SELPORS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN
REGARD TO THE WORK OF THE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS GROUP,
CABRAL DE MELLOH
ONFIRMED THAT BRAZIL WOULD WISH
TO EVALUATE THE WHOLE PACKAGE EMERGING FROM THE MTN,
BEFORE MAKING A FINAL COMMITMENT ON TARIFF CUTS. IN
THE PAST, BRAZIL, HAVING BEEN TOO LIBERAL IN ITS
APPROACH ON TARIFF CONCESSIONS, HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN
REQUIRED TO RENEGOTIATE SOME OF ITS COMMITMENTS. TODMAN
SAID BRAZIL'S POSITION WOULD CAUSE DIFFICULTY FOR
THE WORK OF THE TARIFF GROUP.

18. CABRAL DE MELLO NOTED THAT AT THE MEETING OF CECON
IN BUENOS AIRES THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION WOULD EXAMINE THE
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US GSP SYSTEM CONTRUCTIVELY AND ADVANCE SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS IMPROVEMENT. BRAZIL WAS CONCERNED, HE SAID, WITH THE PROLIFERATION OF SPECIAL CASES AND CONSIDERATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY, SUCH AS LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE CONCEPT OF GRADUATION. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN SAID THE REVIEW OF GSP AT BUENOS AIRES WAS TIMELY, ADDING THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS NOW STUDYING TRADE ISSUES AS THEY AFFECT LATIN AMERICA, SUCH AS THE OPERATION OF THE GSP. THIS WAS AN EFFORT TO FIND CASES WHERE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO LDC NEEDS, WHICH WOULD BE OF BENEFIT TO LATIN AMERICA, THOUGH THE ADMINISTRATION WAS NOT PURSUING REGIONAL PREFERENCES. TODMAN REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF LATIN AMERICAN VIEWS TO THE ADMINISTRATION, NOTING THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS COMMITTED TO CONSULTATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA.

19. NUCLEAR MATTERS--BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM, CABRAL DE MELLO SAID, WAS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF CONVENTIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES IN BRAZIL AND THE IMPORTANCE TO BRAZIL OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE. TODMAN EXPRESSED THE ADMINISTRATION'S UNDERSTANDING OF BRAZIL'S CONCERN OVER DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN SOURCES, AND REITERATED THE US DESIRE TO COOPERATE IN FINDING WAYS THAT WOULD MEET THIS BRAZILIAN CONCERN WHILE OBVIATING THE DANGERS OF GLOBAL PROLIFERATION. TODMAN HOPED OTHER STATES WOULD COOPERATE IN THE PENDING STUDY OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE. HE STRESSED THE ADMINISTRATION'S DEEP CONCERN FOR THE PROSPECTS FOR NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND ITS COMMITMENT TO STEM THE ARMS RACE, BOTH CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR.

20. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN ASKED FOR BRAZIL'S VIEWS ON THE FUTURE WORK OF THE TRADE SUBGROUP, SINCE THE US WAS INTERESTED IN KEEPING THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS GOING. CABRAL DE MELLO SAID THE GOB WISHED TO GIVE FURTHER THOUGHT TO THE TIMING OF THE NEXT TRADE SUBGROUP MEETING.

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21. CUBA AND ARGENTINA--FOLLOWING HIS MEETINGS WITH THE THREE ITAMARATY DEPARTMENT HEADS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN WAS RECEIVED FOR A 25-MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH SECRETARY-GENERAL GUERREIRO. TODMAN BRIEFED GUERREIRO ON THE PRINCIPAL POINTS OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH VIDELA IN CARACAS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. GUERREIRO, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR ARAUJO, EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN THE DETAILS OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S VISIT TO CUBA.

TODMAN EXPLAINED THE US APPROACH AND OBJECTIVES IN ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CUBANS AND THE POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS, SUCH AS SOME FORM OF REPRESENTATION IN CUBA. GUERREIRO POINTED OUT THAT BRAZIL'S OWN RELATIONS WITH CUBA ARE NOT NOW A BURNING ISSUE. HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE CONTACTS WITH THE CUBANS ON TECHNICAL MATTERS, SUCH AS SUGAR AND IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BUT THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECT FOR THE RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS NOR WAS THERE MUCH INCENTIVE TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN USED THE OCCASION TO REAFFIRM AGAIN THE SECRETARY'S INTEREST IN CONTINUING CLOSE AND FREQUENT CONSULTATIONS WITH BRAZIL.

22. IN CONGRESS-ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S DISCUSSIONS WITH SENATOR MAGALHAES AND DEPUTY FLAVIO MARCILIO WERE BRIEF AND CORDIAL. TODMAN ON BOTH OCCASIONS STRESSED THE US RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE, IN THE GOVERNING PROCESS. MAGALHAES PINTO, A FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER, IN REVIEWING NUCLEAR AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ACTIONS IN RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT INCIDENT HAD BEEN MISINTERPRETED HERE AND WAS CONFIDENT THAT BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE DO NOT WANT FRICTION WITH THE US.

23. COMMENT: WHILE SPECIFIC BILATERAL DIFFERENCES
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DISCUSSED WERE FEW AND WERE USUALLY DEALT WITH IN GENERAL TERMS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S TALKS IN BRASILIA FULLY ACHIEVED THE INTENDED EFFECT OF GIVING TODMAN SOME PERSONAL FAMILIARITY WITH THE TOP FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND A FIRSTHAND APPRECIATION OF THE BRAZILIAN VIEW OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE WORLD, THE HEMISPHERE AND WITH US. THE VISIT WAS EQUALLY SUCCESSFUL IN ACQUAINTING THE BRAZILIANS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S THINKING ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES, AND WITH THE US OFFICIAL WHO WILL BE A CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE FUTURE CONDUCT OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE US. THE BRAZILIANS HAVE MADE CLEAR TO US THAT THEY WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE WARMTH, OPENNESS AND EASE OF TODMAN'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM, SUGGESTING THAT THESE QUALITIES THAT WILL ENHANCE FRANKNESS AND TRUST IN OUR BILATERAL DIALOGUE. WHILE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS MAY HAVE INITIALLY APPROACHED HIS VISIT WITH SOME RESERVE, AS PRESS COMMENTARY CLAIMED, IT WAS NOT APPARENT DURING THE DISCUSSIONS. THEIR COMMENTS TO US AND TO THE PRESS INDICATE THAT HIS VISIT, ON THE PERSONAL AND OFFICIAL LEVELS, WAS FULLY SUCCESSFUL, AND WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD LOWERING THE TENSIONS PRESENT

IN OUR RELATIONSHIP SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR
AND IN REINFORCING GOB MOVEMENT TOWARD THE RESUMPTION
OF NORMAL DIALOGUE. END COMMENT.
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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